

# A BETTER WORLD

News about people and groups in the Triangle making a difference with their giving and philanthropic activities.

## NONPROFIT NEWS

**Butterball LLC**, working with nonprofit **Stop Hunger Now**, has donated 61,000 pounds of turkey to victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

**Gleaning for the World**, a transporter of disaster relief supplies, took the turkey from its storage warehouse in La Port, Texas, to Haiti last month.

"We are proud to join in the disaster relief efforts to support Haiti," said **Keith Shoemaker**, Butterball's president and CEO.



Shoemaker

Several thousand walkers raised nearly \$466,000 for multiple sclerosis programs during the 2010 Triangle Walk MS.

The event was held April 24 at the **RBC Center** in Raleigh. The organization had aimed to raise \$600,000 and is still taking donations toward that goal.

The Eastern North Carolina chapter of the **National Multiple Sclerosis Society** is holding four events during May, with the goal of raising \$800,000 total.

**Granville County Habitat for Humanity** received a \$1,300 donation from employees at the **Food Lion Distribution Center** in Butler. The dollars will be used to help construct a Habitat home in Granville County. "We're excited to have such a wonderful partner (in Food Lion) to assist us..." said **Mark Prokop**, GCFH's executive director.

## For the children, advocacy center in Wake

The Special Victims Unit of the Wake County District Attorney's Office employs three assistant district attorneys who focus on sexual and physical abuse of children in a county with thousands of allegations of abuse every year.

Investigating those allegations, and providing services and treatment for abused children, involves multiple law-enforcement, health and social-services agencies and typically requires that children undergo multiple interviews, evaluations and medical examinations at different agencies at different times, a process that can force them to relive the trauma of the original abuse.

In 22 other counties or groups of counties in the state, child advocacy centers have been established to coordinate and help children and their families navigate that process, which aims to protect and treat abused children and prosecute their abusers.

Now, thanks to a collaborative planning process that WakeMed spearheaded, SAFEchild is set to open a child advocacy center for Wake County, which is the biggest county in the state without a child advocacy center.

Child abuse and the lack of coordination for handling allegations of abuse represent a "serious problem," says **Melanie Shekita**, an assistant district attorney who serves on a planning committee for the new center.

"We need a comprehensive center to help provide adequate resources for all children who have been sexually or physically abused," she says.

To be located in a former residence on Kidd Road near WakeMed that served as the initial home for SAFEchild, the new center will provide a child-friendly environment to better serve children by coordinating the response to allegations of abuse, says **Marjorie Menestres**, executive director of SAFEchild.

Shekita says the center will provide joint interviews of children by multiple agencies that will be handled by forensic social workers and will be admissible in court.

The center also will provide follow-up treatment for children and their families.

Menestres says the center "will help children not be retraumatized throughout the investigation and treatment of their abuse."

The center, set to open in July, expects in its first year to serve 325 children and their non-offending parents, a number that should grow by 50 children the second year, Menestres says.



PHILANTHROPY NEWS DESK

TODD COHEN



Marjorie Menestres, left, who will head center, is pictured with Assistant DA Melanie Shekita and a cuddly mutual friend.

With the annual budget for the center totaling \$300,000, SAFEchild already has secured commitments for over \$50,000 in unrestricted funding, plus a commitment from WakeMed of \$40,000 in in-kind contributions, including a part-time medical director, a colposcope and camera used for child sexual-abuse exams, and anatomically correct dolls.

And the N.C. Governor's Crime Commission will support the cost of the center's director and its family case manager, plus two computers, monitors and printers.

Despite the difficult economic times, the SAFEchild board voted unanimously to add the center to its programs, which already serve roughly 650 families and 5,000 children a year, because it was the right thing to do, Menestres says.

"We were established to fill a need," says Menestres, who has headed SAFEchild since it was formed in 1993 by the Junior League of Raleigh, "and we are living by our traditions."

Cohen is editor and publisher of the *Philanthropy Journal*. He can be reached at [tcohen@ncsu.edu](mailto:tcohen@ncsu.edu).

## PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

• **Share Our Shoes** hired **Lynda Barton** as assistant director/accounting. **Debra Chadwick** was hired for intake, donations and administrative duties. **Brian Pearl** was hired for Web and marketing duties. SOS named the following to its board of directors: **Evangeline Bullock**, **Brian Knight**, **Michael Richard** and **Jennifer Pierce**.

• **David Finch**, president and CEO of **Atcom Business**



Finch

**Telecom Solutions**, was named to **Hospice of Wake County's** 2010 board of directors.

• **Easter Seals UCP North Carolina and Virginia** President and CEO **Connie Cochran** received the 2010 Myrtle M. and Tom B. Medders Award for Executive Leadership.

• **Matt Coffland**, managing director at **RSM McGladrey Inc.**, was named to the Triangle chapter of the **Association for Corporate Growth's** board of directors.

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